

# ND Project Management Newsletter

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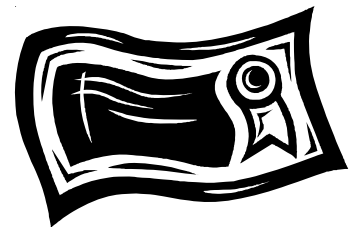
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Thank you for taking the time to read the *North Dakota Project Management Newsletter*! The purpose of this newsletter is to bring you information about project management-related topics and events in North Dakota Government and Higher Education.

## North Dakota State Government's First Project+ Certifications Attained

Included in the NITAS Project Management course fee is a voucher to take the CompTIA Project+ Certification Exam. This entry-level certification exam was originally developed by Gartner and later purchased by CompTIA. John Aaron, who developed and taught all five of ND's NITAS Project Management courses, was deeply involved in the development of the most recent version of this exam. The following have completed the examination process and received the Project+ Certification:

Jessica Rossow, JSND  
Pat Kelly, JSND  
Brian Matthews, JSND  
Craig Koch, JSND  
Tim Pfaff, DOT  
Stephen Vaughan, WSI  
Brandi Fagerland, WSI



Brent Larson, ITD  
Justin Data, ITD  
Roger Wetzel, ITD  
Valerie Friedig, ITD  
Dave Eckenrode, ITD  
Darrin Lee, ITD

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## PM News

Project Management Advisory

Group identifies key initiatives

for 2006.

### NITAS Mentors Attain Certification

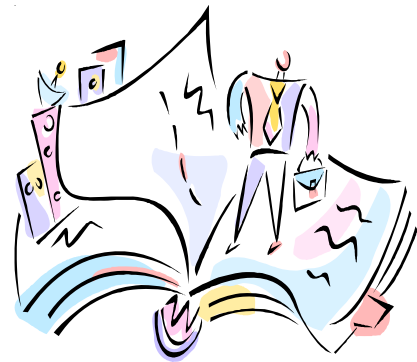
With the NITAS program underway, members of our mentor group and our apprentice pilot group continue to demonstrate their project management competencies and complete various levels of the program. Those completing the requirements to attain the NITAS credential include:

Level 1 – Richard Anderson-NDUS, Barbara Solberg-MiSU

Level 2 – Shawn Meier-ITD

### Project Management – The Future State

Many of the articles in this newsletter are intended to inform you of what is happening today...our present state. However, we can only reflect for a short time on what we did in 2005 before someone starts asking, "What have you done lately?" Let's take a few moments to look at a sampling of what the Enterprise Project Management Advisory Group has identified as initiatives for 2006.



#### *Project Management Career Path*

The Enterprise Project Management (EPM) Advisory Group spent a great deal of time during 2005 working on PIQ's for a proposed Project Manager job class series. The proposed job class would include a Project Manager I, II and III. Agencies are presently reviewing and submitting employee PIQ's that may fit more appropriately in the classification. Upon receipt, Human Resource Management Services (HRMS) will review the request and make a determination on the Project Manager series.

#### *Project Management Training*

While 2005 held a great deal of vendor-led training, the EPM Advisory Group will be spending more time in 2006 developing internal project management training modules. Presently, we have identified the need for three generalized courses in project management. They will be based on sound project management principals and processes, while incorporating the *ND Project Management Guidebook* into a variety of exercises and examples. The need for continued project management training is clear; however, the depth of training varies based on the role of the audience (e.g., project team member, agency executive, sponsor, stakeholder). For that reason, the training product will be available in four-, eight- and 16-hour blocks.

### *Project Management Information System Requirements Analysis*

The EPM Advisory Group has begun an initiative to complete a requirements analysis for an enterprise-wide project management information system. The first step in this process is the development of the business case. Once approved, individual agency requirements will be gathered and collated into a single set of requirements. All existing ((e.g., Work Management System (WMS), PeopleSoft)) and potential new (e.g., Planview, Primavera) technology will be taken into consideration in this process. The goal is to have budget information ready for agencies prior to the July 15, 2006 IT Plan submission deadline if it is determined appropriate to utilize technology other than what is presently available.

### *Post Implementation Reports*

Changes in the STD009-05 Standard for the Project Management of Large Information Technology Projects call for the Post Implementation Report (PIR) to be included in the overall timeline of the project. This will typically be the final deliverable before the project is closed. This is a change from past practices and should typically be scheduled to occur three months after product implementation. This timeframe allows the end user to utilize the system prior to providing feedback. Projects that do not complete the PIR in a timely manner will be delayed and the schedule will be impacted.

A web-based Post Implementation Report survey is being developed in accordance with the *ND Project Management Guidebook*. Any agency may utilize this survey to complete the PIR. Contact Mark Molesworth at [mmolesworth@state.nd.us](mailto:mmolesworth@state.nd.us) or 701-328-4474 for additional details.

### PM Training

NITAS Project Management

Training “exceeds standards”

according to attendees.

### **Final NITAS Project Management Training Seminar Held**

In May 2005, the first NITAS Project Management Training course was held as a pilot program for an audience of 16. Seven months later, with a record class of 31, John Aaron completed the fifth and final three-day event. In all, a total of 111 project managers, project team members, sponsors, executives and stakeholders attended this highly regarded event (Appendix I). One hundred and seven course evaluations were compiled with an aggregate rating of “exceeds standards” (Appendix II) for each and every category. Comments included, “I have a whole list of notes that each is worth the time and cost of the course,” “Excellent,” and “Great knowledge & teaching abilities - Kept the group interested & active.”

Training is just one step in the NITAS credential process. Those who choose to continue on will have the opportunity to take the Project+ Certification Exam and/or enter into the apprenticeship program where they will work with an experienced project manager, applying the skills they learned in class to a live project. To obtain a full NITAS credential, prospective candidates must complete a combination of training, certification, skills validation and on-the-job learning.

## PM Articles

### CIO survey finds project management is the lead skill needed in IT hires.

<http://www.pmi.org/communitypost/Jan27-06/CIOsurvey.htm>

#### Productive Portfolio

*Andrew Makar, PMP*

<http://www.ganttthead.com/article.cfm?ID=225559>



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